

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USNATO
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
RUFNPFMXAMEMBASSY PARIS 2104
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC 5730

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5198

EO 11652XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, PL
SUBJ: POLISH JOURNALISTS' TOUR

REF: USNATO 6131

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PURSUING THIS MATTER BUT REGRET
THAT IT HAS BECOME SO TIME CONSUMING FOR YOU. AL-
THOUGH WE THINK THE VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE
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REASONS WE SPECIFY BELOW, IT IS BY NO MEANS A HIGH
PRIORITY FOR US. IF AT ANY POINT IT SEEMS TO YOU
THAT THE OPPOSITION IS SUCH THAT, EVEN THOUGH IT
MIGHT BE OVERCOME, IN THE PROCESS IT COULD
BECOME A SORE POINT, WE CAN MAKE A DIGNIFIED WITH-
DRAWAL AND PERHAPS RETURN TO THE IDEA ANOTHER TIME.

2. THERE MAY INDEED - IN FACT, PROBABLY WILL -
BE CRITICAL REPORTING AS A RESULT OF THE TOUR. WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT THE JOURNALISTS WILL WRITE, AND OBVIOUSLY
THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO POLICY GUIDANCES
COMPLETELY UNAFFECTED BY ANYTHING THEY
MIGHT SEE OR HEAR IN BRUSSELS OR NAPLES.

3. HOW CAN THE VISIT BE BENEFICIAL TO NATO'S INTERESTS?
MUCH DEPENDS UPON WHAT THE POLES PERCEIVE. THEY
WILL BE RANKING, SOPHISTICATED JOURNALISTS
WHO WILL REPORT ON THEIR VISIT TO RANKING MEMBERS
OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY WHEN THEY RETURN, RE-
GARDLESS OF WHAT THEY WRITE FOR THE PUBLIC. WE
HOPE YOUR BRIEFING WILL LEAD THEM TO UNDER-
STAND THAT NATO MAY INDEED BE A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE
AND THAT THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
MAY BE GREATER THAN THEY SUPPOSE. TO EXPECT MORE
AT THIS POINT SEEMS UNREALISTIC. IN THE PROCESS,
WE HOPE THE VISIT WILL BE WIDELY PERCEIVED HERE AS
A SUPPLEMENT, ON THE PART OF THE WEST, TO THE CON-
FIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES OF EXCHANGING OBSERVERS
AT NATO AND WARSAW PACT MANEUVERS. WE ALSO EXPECT
THAT BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL AND IMPRESSIVE EVIDENCE
OF THE OPENNESS OF WESTERN JOURNALISTIC PRACTICES,
THE TOUR WILL ADD STILL FURTHER TO THE WIDESPREAD
DISCONTENT HERE OVER CENSORSHIP AND OTHER METHODS
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